Deposits of lignite in Tamil Nadu

1520. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge deposits of lignite were discovered at Vellar, Bahur and Jayangondam in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, what is the estimated deposit in each location; and

(c) what steps are being taken in the near future to explore these deposits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The estimated geological reserves of lignite at South of Vellar and Jayamkondacholapuram in Tamil Nadu and Bahur area, partly in Tamil Nadu and partly in Pondicherry are as under:

South of Vellar	— 500 million tonnes
Bahur	— 480 million tonnes
Jayamkonda-cholapuram	— 1150 million tonnes

(c) Detailed exploration is being carried out in all three areas to firm up the mineable deposits.

Implementation of coal projects in collaboration with USSR

1521. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some coal projects are under implementation in the country in collaboration with USSR;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof alongwith the assistance given by USSR;

(c) whether there is a need to monitor those projects; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Coal projects under implementation with USSR assistance are Jhanjra Underground project of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. and Khadia and Nigahi Opencast projects of Northern Coalfields Ltd. Supply of Soviet equipment for these projects is covered under Soviet Credit. Value of the contracts concluded so far by Coal India Ltd. for these projects under Soviet Credit is about 90 million roubles (about Rs. 163 crores). Modernisation of Pathardih Washery of BCCL is also being taken up with Soviet assistance.

(c) All major projects, including those with Soviet assistance, need to be monitored in order to avoid delays and slippages.

(d) At the last meeting of the Indo-USSR Working Group on Coal, held in April, 1989, it has been mutually agreed that for this purpose concerned organisations in both the countries will identify all problem areas and establish clear and complete procedures including technical and other requirements, communication channels etc.

Gopalpur Coal Mine in Orissa

1522. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a delay in the beginning of Gopalpur Coal Mines in Sundargarh disthict of Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the date by which that coal mine will be opened;

(c) what are the potentials of coal deposits in that coal mine; and

(d) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF) : (a) to (d) Gopalpur block in Ib Valley Coalfield, Orissa, is under exploration. The detailed exploration of the entire block will take 6 to 8 years.

For a part of this block covering an area of about 4 Sq. K.M. geological exploration has been completed. In this part, a reserve of 83 million tonnes has been estimated and an exercise has been taken up for assessing the feasibility of developing an opencast mine in this area.